Unorganised workers

257. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has more than 370 million workers in the unorganized sector;

(b) if so, whether Government intend to introduce any social security net for their welfare;

(c) if so, what are the salient features thereof; and

(d) the time-frame of its implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) According to the survey conducted by the National Samaple Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 1999-2000, there are about 369 million workers in the unorganized sector.

(b) to (d) A large number of workers in the unorganized sector are eligible to get social security benefits under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 and the Employees' Provident Funds and the Miscellaneous Provision Act, 1952. The Government is implementing social security and welfare schemes for beedi workers, cine workers and certain non-coal mine workers through Welfare Funds. The Government has launched the 'Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojna-2001' for providing some social security to the agricultural workers and is being implemented by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in 50 identified districts in the country and envisages to cover 10 lakh agricultural workers during the first phase of three years. The LIC is also operating the Jan Shri Bima Yojana, a group insurance scheme for persons below and marginally above the poverty line. A National Social Assistance Programme covering old-age pension, family and maternity benefits for selected groups is also in operation. Some of the State Governments have also introduced social security schemes through welfare funds for the workers in the unorganized sector.